

and this can have a detrimental affect on neighboring businesses that are making some effort to improve their situation. More detail on this situation will appear in the Land Development Plan, which follows in a later section.

The matter of raising the income level is also difficult and slow to achieve, but there is evidence that already the picture that was painted earlier in this report from the 1959 data is improving considerably. As noted in this earlier section, the Maiden area (Newton Township) mean family income in 1959 was \$4,840 and the per capita income was \$1,473. Legislation of recent years has established a minimum wage for interstate operations, the present level being \$1.65 per hour. Even at this minimum a worker with a 40-hour week would earn \$86 per week or from \$4,300 to \$4,472 per year, depending on what arrangement was made concerning vacation time. Estimates made in connection with this study indicate that the average worker in the Maiden area is possibly earning an even higher wage than this. For example, in a group of employers contacted some gave annual payroll figures and other were estimated from number of employees and an average weekly wage. Based on these payroll figures, many local workers would be earning in the range of \$90 to \$100 per week or from \$4,680 to \$5,200 annually. (Better than average wages are indicated by several factors, including both the caliber of employment sources here and the competition developed by the favorable job situation in the whole region.)

Of course, the cost of living has increased along with the wage picture, but it is evident that the retail situation here can be encouraged by the income picture currently at hand.